

## A B S T R A C T

A NUCLEAR FUEL ASSEMBLY INCLUDING AN INTERNAL REINFORCING  
DEVICE

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The nuclear fuel assembly (1) comprises a group of nuclear fuel rods (3) disposed in a substantially regular array together with a support skeleton (5), the assembly having:

- 10           · two nozzles (7, 9);  
             · guide tubes (11) interconnecting the nozzles; and  
             · spacer grids (13) secured to the guide tubes for holding the rods.

15           The assembly includes at least one support skeleton reinforcing device (21) disposed between two successive spacer grids (13) and secured to guide tubes (11). The reinforcing device (21) is disposed inside the group of rods (3) and presents a transverse extent that is smaller than the transverse extent of the array of nuclear fuel  
20   rods (3).

             The invention is applicable to fuel assemblies for pressurized water reactors.

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35           Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3.